

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
AID-05 PC-01 OMB-01 SIL-01 LAB-04 /074 W
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O P 241236Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1833
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY
AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY
CINCPAC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 5343

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PK
SUBJECT: POLITICAL SITUATION IN PAKISTAN

1. SUMMARY: FEDERAL FINANCE MINISTER PIRZADA CALLED ON WORKERS
AND PEASANTS TO DEFEAT THE IMPERIALIST CONSPIRACIES UNDERMINING
PAKISTAN IN A SPEECH ON MAY 23. PAK PRESS GAVE CONSIDERABLE PLAY
TO THE ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE STATEMENT SUPPORTING
PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO IN HIS "EFFORTS TO THWART FOREIGN INTERFERENCE."
SARDAR QAYYUM AGAIN LEFT ISLAMABAD TO MEET WITH
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PNA LEADERS SCATTERED AROUND PAKISTAN. HE TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE,
AFTER MEETING WITH THE PM, THAT THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE PM AND
THE PNA DEPENDS ON THE OUTCOME OF HIS MEETINGS WITH THE OTHER
PNA LEADERS. THE PIR OF PAGARO, IN THE MEANTIME, AGAIN SAID THAT
NO PROGRESS WAS POSSIBLE UNTIL THE THREE BASIC PNA DEMANDS ARE
MET. THE SAUDI AMBASSADOR TO PAKISTAN CONTINUED TO MEET WITH
PNA LEADERS AT SIHALA ON A DAILY BASIS. ON MAY 23 A PLO REPRESENT-

ATIVE ALSO JOURNEYED TO SIHALA AFTER DELIVERING A MESSAGE TO THE PRIME MINISTER. THE SITUATION IN PAKISTAN REMAINED CALM TODAY. THE PRESIDENT PROMULGATED TWO ORDINANCES WHICH FURTHER RESTRICTED THE POWER OF THE JUDICIARY IN THE MARTIAL LAW AREAS. END SUMMARY.

2. FEDERAL FINANCE MINISTER ABDUL HAFEEZ PIRZADA, IN A SPEECH IN ISLAMABAD ON MAY 23, CALLED ON THE WORKERS AND PEASANTS OF PAKISTAN TO RISE UP AGAINST THE IMPERIALIST CONSPIRACIES UNDERMINING PAKISTAN'S EXISTENCE. THE PRIME MINISTER'S RIGHT HAND MAN SAID, REFERRING TO THE PM'S SPEECH OF APRIL 28, THAT CONSPIRACIES SUCH AS THE ONE NOW THREATENING PAKISTAN ALWAYS ARISE WHENEVER A THIRD WORLD COUNTRY DEMANDED ITS RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE.

3. THE ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE STATEMENT SUPPORTING THE PRIME MINISTER WAS LAUDED IN THE LEAD EDITORIAL IN MAY 24 PAKISTAN TIMES. THE MINISTERS, IN THEIR STATEMENT, VOICED CONCERN OVER THE "EXTERNAL MANEUVERS" DIRECTED AGAINST PAKISTAN AND REITERATED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN IN THEIR "EFFORTS TO THWART FOREIGN INTERFERENCE." THE EDITORIAL COMMENTS THAT THE THREAT WHICH HAS SO OBVIOUSLY CAUSED CONCERN AMONG THE FOREIGN MINISTERS STILL DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE CAUSED THE PNA TO HALT THEIR ANTI-BHUTTO CAMPAIGN.

4. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SARDAR QAYYUM AND ACTING PNA CHIEF PIR OF PAGARO ONCE AGAIN BECAME EVIDENT AS BOTH MEN MADE FRONT PAGE NEWS IN TODAY'S NEWSPAPERS. SARDAR QAYYUM, AFTER A MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER ON THE EVENING OF MAY 23, LEFT ON THE SECOND LEG OF HIS JOURNEY TO MEET WITH PNA LEADERS INCARCERATED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. QAYYUM TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER HIS MEETING
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WITH THE PM THAT THE CONTEMPLATED DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE PM AND THE PNA HINGED ON THE OUTCOMES OF HIS MEETINGS WITH THE PNA LEADERSHIP. SARDAR QAYYUM'S REMARKS GENERATED AN AIR OF CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM. IN A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS ISSUED EARLIER IN THE DAY, HOWEVER, THE PIR OF PAGARO ONCE AGAIN STATED THAT NO PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE ON NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES AND THAT NO PROGRESS WOULD BE MADE UNTIL THE THREE BASIC DEMANDS OF THE PNA, INCLUDING BHUTTO'S RESIGNATION, WERE MET.

5. THE SAUDI AMBASSADOR TO PAKISTAN CONTINUES TO PLAY A LEADING ROLE IN EFFORTS TO NEGOTIATE A TRUCE BETWEEN THE PNA AND THE PM. AMBASSADOR AL-KHATIB HAS MADE DAILY EXCURSIONS TO SIHALA TO MEET MUFTI MAHMUD AND OTHER PNA LEADERS. THERE IS NO WORD ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE DISCUSSIONS. A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PLO, HANI AT-HASAN, ALSO MET WITH PNA LEADERS ON MAY 23 AFTER DELIVERING A MESSAGE TO THE PRIME MINISTER FROM YASSER ARAFAT. THE ENVOY HAD ARRIVED IN ISLAMABAD YESTERDAY EVENING, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS.

6. THE SITUATION THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY WAS TERMED NORMAL IN A

GOP PRESS RELEASE ON MAY 24. THE CURFEW IN MULTAN WAS LIFTED AS PREPARATIONS FOR THE OPENING OF SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT THE PUNJAB CONTINUED.

7. IN AN EDITORIAL PAGE ARTICLE, "A SOLDIER IN THE EYE OF THE STORM - I," BY "A SOLDIER" THE PAKISTAN TIMES DEFENDED THE ROLE OF THE PAKISTAN ARMY IN THE CURRENT CRISIS AND TOOK TO TASK THOSE WHO DENOUNCED THE ARMY PATROLLING THE STREETS OF MAJOR PAKISTANI CITIES. IT ADDS THAT PRESERVATION OF NATIONAL SECURITY IS THE SOLDIER'S PRIMARY TASK REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE EMENY FACED IS INTERNAL OR EXTERNAL. THE ARTICLE SEEMS DESIGNED BOTH AS AN ATTEMPT TO BOLSTER OFFICER MORALE AND TO JUSTIFY ARMY ACTIONS TO THE PAPER'S READERSHIP.

8. THE PRESIDENT PROMULGATED TWO ORDINANCES MAY 23 WHICH STRENGTHEN EARLIER GOVERNMENT MOVES TO REMOVE HIGH COURT JURISDICTION IN CASES WHERE THE MILITARY, IN ITS ROLE AS MARTIAL LAW ADMIN-
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ISTRATOR, HAS MADE ARRESTS. THE ORDINANCES ARE UNDOUBTEDLY AN ATTEMPT TO CLOSE ANY REMAINING LOOPHOLES IN THE AUTHORITY OF THE MILITARY TO ACT, FREE OF JUDICIAL REVIEW, IN THE MARITAL LAW AREAS.
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